

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1           1. A method, comprising:  
2           receiving at a client device a key from a first network adaptor, the key being  
3           associated with a remote management device; and  
4           storing the key at a second network adapter.
  
- 1           2. The method of claim 1, wherein the key is stored in a non-volatile storage unit  
2           at the second network adapter.
  
- 1           3. The method of claim 1, wherein an encrypted version of the key is received  
2           from the first network adaptor and stored at the second network adapter.
  
- 1           4. The method of claim 1, further comprising prior to said receiving:  
2           determining a clear-text key during an initialization process; and  
3           providing the clear-text key to the first network adapter, wherein the first network  
4           adapter is to encrypt the clear-text key and store the encrypted key.
  
- 1           5. The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
2           storing at the client device an indication that the key is currently stored at the  
3           second network adapter.

1           6. The method of claim 1, further comprising prior to said receiving:  
2           determining that the second network adapter is to communicate with the remote  
3 ~~management~~ device.

1           7. The method of claim 6, wherein the determination of the second network  
2 adapter is based on a determination that the first network adapter is no longer able to  
3 communicate with the remote management device.

1           8. The method of claim 1, wherein the received key is stored in a volatile  
2 memory unit at the client device, and said storing further comprises:  
3           retrieving the key from the volatile memory unit; and  
4           storing the key at a second network adapter.

1           9. The method of claim 1, further comprising prior to said receiving:  
2           selecting the first network adapter from a group of available network adapters.

1           10. The method of claim 9, wherein an available network adapter on a  
2 motherboard is selected before a network adapter that is not on the motherboard.

1           11. The method of claim 1, wherein the key is to be used to authenticate an alert  
2 standard format message from the remote management device.

1           12. An apparatus, comprising:  
2           a storage medium having stored thereon instructions that when executed by a  
3 machine result in the following:  
4           receiving at a client device a key from a first network adaptor, the key  
5           being associated with a remote management device, and  
6           storing the key at a second network adapter.

1           13. The apparatus of claim 12, wherein an encrypted version of the key is  
2 received from the first network adaptor and stored at the second network adapter.

1           14. The apparatus of claim 12, wherein execution of the instructions further  
2 results in, prior to said receiving:  
3           determining a clear-text key during an initialization process, and  
4           providing the clear-text key to the first network adaptor, wherein the first  
5 network adaptor is to encrypt the clear-text key and store the encrypted key.

1           15. The apparatus of claim 12, wherein execution of the instructions further  
2 results in:  
3           storing at the client device an indication that the key is currently stored at  
4 the second network adapter.

1           16. The apparatus of claim 12, wherein execution of the instructions further  
2 results in, prior to said receiving:  
3           determining that the second network adapter is to communicate with the  
4 remote management device.

1           17. The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the determination of the second network  
2 adapter is based on a determination that the first network adapter is no longer able to  
3 communicate with the remote management device.

1           18. The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the received key is stored in a volatile  
2 memory unit at the client device, and said storing further comprises:  
3                   retrieving the key from the volatile memory unit, and  
4                   storing the key at a second network adapter.

1           19. The apparatus of claim 12, wherein execution of the instructions further  
2 results in, prior to said receiving:  
3                   selecting the first network adapter from a group of available network  
4 adapters.

1           20. The apparatus of claim 19, wherein an available network adapter on a  
2 motherboard is selected before a network adapter that is not on the motherboard.

1           21. The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the key is to be used to authenticate an  
2 alert standard format message from the remote management device.

- 1           22. An apparatus, comprising:  
2           a client device processor;  
3           an input path to receive a key from a first network adaptor, the key being  
4 associated with a remote management device; and  
5           an output path to store the key at a second network adapter.
- 1           23. The apparatus of claim 22, further comprising:  
2           a volatile memory unit to store the key.
- 1           24. An apparatus, comprising:  
2           an input path to receive a clear-text key from a client device processor, the clear-  
3 text key being associated with a remote management device;  
4           an encryption engine to encrypt the clear-text key and generate an encrypted key;  
5 and  
6           a non-volatile storage unit to store the encrypted key.
- 1           25. The apparatus of claim 24, further comprising:  
2           an input path to receive an encrypted key from the client device processor, the  
3 encrypted key to be stored in the non-volatile storage unit.
- 1           26. The apparatus of claim 24, further comprising:  
2           an output path to provide an encrypted key to the client device processor.

1           27. An apparatus, comprising:  
2           a network adapter processor; and  
3           an input path to receive a key from another network adapter, the key being  
4           associated with a remote management device.

1           28. The apparatus of claim 27, wherein the input path is associated with a system  
2           management bus interface.

1           29. A method, comprising:  
2           determining a clear-text key during an initialization process at a client device, the  
3           key being associated with a remote management device;  
4           storing the clear-text key at a network adaptor; and  
5           receiving from the network adaptor an encrypted version of the key.

1           30. The method of claim 29, further comprising:  
2           storing the encrypted version of the key at another network processor.

1           31. A system, comprising:  
2           a client device processor, including:  
3                 an input path to receive a key from a first network adaptor, the key being  
4                 associated with a remote management device, and  
5                 an output path to store the key at a second network adapter; and  
6           an Ethernet port.

- 1           32. The system of claim 31, further comprising:  
2           a network adaptor coupled between the client device processor and the Ethernet  
3   port.